

AMENDMENT

Please amend the application in accordance with the following particulars.

In the Claims

The claims are amended as shown on the following pages under the heading LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS. The list shows the status of all claims presently in the application and is intended to supersede all prior versions of the claims in the application. Any cancellation of claims is made without prejudice or disclaimer.

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A series of value documents ~~having~~ comprising:

at least two value documents wherein at least one value document is an upgrade of ~~the other~~ at least one originally-issued value document ~~documents, each of the value documents comprising~~:

wherein the at least one originally-issued value document comprises:

a value document substrate and at least two different feature substances for checking ~~[[the]]~~ value documents ~~of the series~~,

wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a first feature substance is incorporated into the volume of the value document substrate of the at least one originally-issued value document, and ~~[[the]]~~ a second feature substance is provided on a surface of the value document substrate of the at least one originally-issued value document in the form of a coding, and

wherein the at least one upgraded value document comprises:

a value document substrate and at least two different feature substances for checking value documents,

wherein the second feature substance is provided on a surface of the value document substrate of the at least one upgraded value document in the form of a coding, and a third feature substance is incorporated into the volume of the value document substrate of the at least one upgraded value document as an upgrade over the at least one-originally-issued value document,

optionally the first feature substance is incorporated into the volume of the value document substrate of the at least one upgraded value document

~~wherein the upgrade of the value documents of the series in addition to or instead of the first feature substance comprises a third feature substance,~~

~~wherein the upgrade of the value documents is over originally issued documents of value having the first feature substance and lacking the third feature substance.~~

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The series of value documents according to claim 1, wherein the first feature substance is distributed substantially uniformly within the volume of the value document substrate of the at least one-originally issued value document and/or the value document substrate of the at least one upgraded value document.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The series of value documents according to claim 1, wherein the third feature substance different from the first feature substance is incorporated into the volume of the value document substrate of the upgraded value documents.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The series of value documents according to claim 3, wherein the third feature substance is distributed substantially uniformly within the volume of the value document substrate of the upgraded value documents.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The series of value documents according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first or third feature substance is formed by at least one of a luminescent substance and a mixture of luminescent substances.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The series of value documents according to claim 1, wherein the second feature substance is formed by a luminescent substance or a mixture of luminescent substances.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The series of value documents according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the feature substances is formed on the basis of a host lattice doped with rare earth elements.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The series of value documents according to claim 1, wherein a fourth feature substance is applied to the at least one originally-issued value document and to the at least one upgraded value document ~~at least two value documents~~, which is different from the second feature substance.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The series of value documents according to claim 8, wherein the fourth feature substance is formed by a feature substance absorbent in the infrared spectral range.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The series of value documents according to claim 9, wherein the fourth feature substance is substantially colorless or has only weak inherent color in the visible spectral range.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The series of value documents according to claim 8, wherein the fourth feature substance is formed by a substance selected from the group consisting of a magnetic substance, an electroconductive substance and a substance with an optically variable effect.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The series of value documents according to claim 8, wherein the fourth feature substance is printed on the at least one originally-issued value document and on the at least one upgraded value document ~~at least two value documents~~ in the form of a coding.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The series of value documents according to claim 1, wherein at least one coding is a bar code.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The series of value documents according to claim 1, wherein at least one coding represents information about the originally-issued or upgraded value document on which the at least one coding is provided, the information being present in one of encrypted and unencrypted form.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The series of value documents according to claim 1, wherein the value document substrate of the at least one originally-issued value document comprises a printed or unprinted cotton fiber paper, and the value document substrate of the at least one upgraded value document comprises a printed or unprinted cotton fiber paper.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The series of value documents according to claim 1, wherein the value document substrate of the at least one originally-issued value document comprises a plastic film that is one of coated, printed and unprinted, and the value document substrate of the at least one upgraded value document comprises a plastic film that is one of coated, printed, and unprinted.

Claim 18. (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The series of value documents according to claim 1, wherein the value document substrate of the at least one originally-issued value document and the value document substrate of the at least one upgraded value document is paper having the form of a moist paper web during its production, and the second feature substance is applied to the moist paper web, in particular sprayed on, in the form of the coding during papermaking.

Claims 20-31. (Cancelled)

Claim 32. (Currently Amended) The series of value documents according to claim 8, wherein the fourth feature substance is printed on the at least one originally-issued value document and on the at least one upgraded value document ~~at least two value documents~~.

Claim 33. (Currently Amended) The series of value documents according to claim 9, wherein the infrared spectral range is selected from the group consisting of above about 1.2 μm ; and from about 1.5 μm to 2.2 μm .

Claim 34. (Currently Amended) The series of value documents according to claim 10, wherein the fourth feature substance does not have significant absorption even in the near infrared up to a wavelength of about 0.8 μm .

Claim 35. (Currently Amended) The series of value documents according to claim 1, wherein said at least one coding extends over a substantially total surface of the at least one originally-issued value document and of the at least one upgraded value document.

Claim 36. (Cancelled)

Claim 37. (Cancelled)